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## Somatic Lexicon in Folklore and Toponyms of the Evenks

**Sargylana D. Vinokurova\****M.K. Ammosov North-Eastern Federal University in Yakutsk  
58 Belinskiy Str., Yakutsk, 677980 Russia*

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*The article considers the current problems of folklore and toponymic names of the Evens. The author analyzes somatic lexicon of the Even language, gives examples of somatic vocabulary in various works of the Even folklore.*

*Keywords: Even, folklore, somatic lexicon, indigenous peoples of the North, Siberia and the Far East.*

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It is worth of note that somatic vocabulary of the Evenki language is one of the ancient layers of word stock of the language. The word “somonym” derives from the Greek “soma” – «body» and means a certain part of the body.

It should be noted that somatic vocabulary, being the most ancient stratum of language, is widely used in the designation of artifacts of the Evenks, and in the names of nature. Somonyms are well represented in the oral poetic speech of the Evenks, as metaphors, similes, epithets.

Toponyms, (from the Greek tons – oputa place – name, title) is a section of onomastics, which explores various names of places, their function, origin and history of its formation, meaning and its spreading on a certain territory.

Includes such types of toponymics as oykonomiya – names of villages, towns and cities; Waternames – the names of water space, oronyms – terms denoting mountains, hills, hillocks, cosmonyms – words for extraterrestrial objects. As the researchers note, toponyms have become the most valuable material for the history of the peoples and their traditional culture, customs and ancient rites. In this respect, we emphasize the close relationship of toponymics to such sciences as anthropology, lexicology, dialectology, etymology, geography, geodesy, history of language, etc.

Yakutia is a large area of the North-East of Russia, the total area of the republic is 3.1 million square kilometers. Here there are 700 000 rivers and streams, about 800,000 lakes, 80 % of the

region occupied by taiga forests, tundra, forest tundra, Arctic desert, mountain landscapes. Among the names of localities revealed a large number of Evenki names. V.A. Keymetinov, a researcher of the Evenki toponymics, noted that “some of the place names may well have a more ancient foundation left by the original indigenous population, particularly Yukagirs, Chukchi, Koryak”.

For us toponymics is of interest from point of view of identifying and describing somatic vocabulary of the Evenki language, so far little studied. Somatic vocabulary, reflecting the geographic names and places, quite often can be found. On the territory of the Oymyakon district there is Lake Koroto-Korit, the word “korot” can be translated into the Russian as “ear.” Local residents explained that the lake is so named because from the top of the rock it looks like a shape of the human ear.

The oronym Myaundzha is a distorted transcription of the Evenki Myaundya, Myavundya – a big heart. Mountain, iconic of a heart (Oym). The word is formed with the suffix-ndya magnifying-pet, glorifying form of the name Myavchan – oronym (Kobe). The heart is derived from the root – myavan with the suffix-kan diminutive meaning. At Moma district in an area where there are extinct volcanoes (epiney) there is a hill, like a heart, it is also called myavchan.

Gad Bodel – One-legged, one leg is the name of the river that runs on the terrain Dogdo (Mom). Tradition has it that a long time ago there lived a rich Even named Micanya. He had a beautiful wife Enche. A poor man Harpan fell in love with her. Once Micanya killed a bighorn sheep on the top of a mountain, the sheep rolled down, but got stuck in the middle of the rock. The owner tied himself to the bridle, and asked Harpan to cling onto the belt, and began to go down, but the poor man released the bridle. Micanya was hanging in the middle of the rock. Then his wife

said, “Stay here and let your eyes (yasalal) dry up and turn to dust.” Enche and Harpan started to laugh at the guy hanging, they ate some meat, then migrated. But Micanya took out a knife, began to hollow stone by stone by the size of the middle finger, got down. Chased them, caught up. Heard that they were talking about him. The wife says, “Micanya is already dead, the soul has left probably”, Harpan replies, “I guess myavun-heart was broken up.” Here Micanya waylaid and killed Harpan with an ax, and his wife cut the bodel – leg, nal – hand. Since then, the river, and this place is called Gad Bodel – one leg.

Oronym Kitini – from kitinchidey – to grin, the suffix “ni”, adjective denoting external sign on the action. The Kitin river, mountain Kitin – apparently the mountain has the shape of a grin.

Hydronym Cherkambal – from Chorkinbal – from chor – fist ball – Horizon (llamas), i.e. a horizon on a cliff with a cam (p.65)

Oronym Horogende – a thumb.

Ebdechen detischanni – spleen (obde) detis-icing; suffix “chen” with the diminutive meaning.

Oronym Yasal – eyes

Evdeche koleken – Evdokia navel (Mage)

Amga – by Amna – the mouth, the mouth of the river in the name of Yakutia. This meaning V.A. Keymetinov explains as “the river where it flows into Amga Aldan forms very similar to mouth or mouth geographic entity, which can be reached by taking the mouth Amga for continuing the Aldan River. It is for such a feature of the mouth of the river the Evenks gave this name Amga River (mouth, jaws) (p.5).

Nirigdi – the name of the mountain (Mom). Neary – back, the suffix – “gdi” named after the woman of Nirigdi.

Hydronym Iechenke in areas Tebyulyah (Mom) of iechen – elbow. It is formed with the suffix-ke denoting external quality. The river, which has a bend in the form of an elbow.

Somonyms in the Evenki language prevalent in many genres of Evenki folklore.

In 1981, in the city of Yakutsk, the book “Even Folklor” – “The Evenki Folklore” was published. It was compiled by Zh. K. Lebedeva, translated into the Yakut by I. E. Fedoseeva. The publication within the folk materials contains a number of the Evenki puzzles.

K.A. Novikova in the years 1946-1956 recorded riddles of the inhabitants of the North-Evenks and Ola of Magadan Oblast, and the Evenks of Sakkyryrsky district of Yakutia. In 1959 Zh. K. Lebedeva also visited the settlement Arka of Khabarovsk Krai, the settlement Anavgai of the Bystrinsky district of Kamchatka Oblast and recorded the puzzles from P. I. Gromov (47 years), A.I. Gromov (50 years) – Arka, as well as from S. Tylkanova (Anavgai).

The material of this study was somatic vocabulary contained in the Evenki riddles.

- Who first walks on four legs, then on two, then on three? (human)

Ne dyulle dygen bodelelken, tarich der, tarich ilan? (Bay) Bodel – leg

- What time all people speak in one language? (as a child when crying)

Ok eydu Baile omen ennelkesel? (kunaraptu honmi) enne – language

- The unknown has two heads, two arms, six legs and a tail. What is this? (a horse rider)

Yak-ut dor dylattan, dor nalattan 6 bodeletten? (Bay baduddan) dyl – head, nal – hand, bodel – leg.

- What is faster than anything else? (a thought)

Ne niduk-te hinma? (Mergen)

- The lake is surrounded by growing forest. What is this? (eyes)

Toneru erely mol? (Yasal) toner – a lake, yasal – eyes

- Two bear dens on a small cape. What is this? (Nose)

Nogdandula nakat dor hutent? (Onat) onat – ear

- On either side of a small hill there are two bear dens, and on top of – a cedar forest. What is this? (The ears and hair on the head) korital – ears nyuritel – hair.

Nogdan terindulin nakat dor dunes heelen bolgikag (Korital, nyuritel dylla). Korital – ears nyuritel – hair

- On the edge of the gorge riders on white horses are riding. What is this? (teeth)
- Apkitli nenedde Baile nebaty muralkasal? (Ital) Ital – teeth
- A red fox peeking out of its hole, but never leaves the hole. What is this? (a tongue)

Hulan hulichan dyuduky gopketten, tar Bimi ca-ta esni novette? (enne)

- Unknown riders on white horses go around the pit and in the middle of the pit a machine is constantly working. What is this? (Teeth and tongue) (um, enne) um – tooth enne – tongue.

- There are two dwarf peasants. They have a lifetime competition with each other running? (legs)

Dor tobenkun Nyari Baile binivur choptere eschimette? (Bodelel) Bodel – leg, bodelel – legs

- Twenty men – brothers have four caps. What is this? (Fingers and toes)

Dormer beyil – akanur dygen avulkar? (Bodelel, Nala) bodelel – legs, Nala – hands

- There are ten men living with their faces at the back (fingers with nails)

Dygen chedemeklevur itikar (Hairal, ostal) Hairal – fingers, ostal – nails

- Ten unknown fellows carry ice on their backs (nails)

Myan ibdiril baile nirilatan bokes (ostal)

- The ten boys have ten pieces of ice? What is this? (nails)

Myan nyarikar myan bokselker? (ostal)

E.N. Bokova is a writer, folklorist who provided us with puzzles of the Evenks of Yakutia.

1. Not being present before your eyes pushes you. What is this? (wind)

Eniken yasallas ichurussi yak bisni? (hunne) yasal – eyes, yasallas – your eyes.

2. On both sides of the back of the mountain are the same lakes. What is this? (eyes)

Urekchen nirin terinnin urechil tonerel bis, tara khas hu ku? (Yasalal)

3. Bushes that rose around an unfrozen lake. What is this? (Eyelashes)

These inemre toneru erel iretel hechel, tarak yak? (Haramta) Haramta – eyelashes

4. Five brothers have separate homes. What is this? (Fingers in a glove)

Tunnan nonul baile bekelte dyulkasal, tarak yak? (Hairalkan bay hairalni) hairalni – his fingers

5. Forest trees – no matter how often you chop them, still growing. What is this? (Eyelashes)

Higi mova ichykyn-de chikimi, tachin-ta handy bigreche. Ere yak biche bidin? (Haramta)

6. On the ledge of a mountain two holes of which worms are peeking out (nose, two holes, snot)

Urekchen nondandulan dor biskhan tarrochin horelduk (haralduk) madilil gokeldevette? (Bay onatan, hyalurmi, umaih) onat – nose; umaik – snot.

7. Four brothers always together, the elder brother kept separately (hand fingers, thumb)

Dygen nonur baile ereger omettu bigrechel, omen akmur omekken bivkette, tarak yak? (nalal, hairal, horegchen) nalal – hands, hairal – fingers, horegchen – thumb

8. Children on their back holding ice (thumb, index finger, middle finger, little finger)

Gedemekoevur bokesu nabgitti kunal bis tarak yak? (horegen, unikan, dulagan, ah gerbele, chimchen) horegen – thumb, unikan – forefinger, dulagan – middle finger, chimchen – the little finger.

9. First, fluffy, then black, then mottled, then white (hair)

Dyulle haykunya, taduk yalranya, taduk gamar-carano, amyrla nebaty (nyurit) nyurit – hair

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## **Сомативная лексика в фольклоре и в топонимике эвенов**

**С.Д. Винокурова**

*Северо-Восточный федеральный университет*

*им. М.К. Аммосова*

*Россия 677000, Якутск, ул. Белинского, 58*

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*В статье рассматриваются актуальные проблемы фольклора и топонимики эвенов. Автор анализирует сомативную лексику эвенского языка, приводит примеры сомативной лексики эвенов в различных произведениях эвенского фольклора.*

*Ключевые слова: эвены, фольклор, сомативная лексика, коренные малочисленные народы Севера, Сибири и Дальнего Востока.*

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